

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method comprising:

providing a shaped article comprising at least one scaffold-forming agent, proteins being excepted, optionally one or more active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances;

contacting the shaped article with water or an aqueous solution comprising one or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances to form a solution or gel comprising the scaffold-forming agent and at least one active substance and/or at least one auxiliary substance; and

applying the solution or gel thus formed to an external skin and/or hair surface of a human or an animal.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1 wherein the solution or gel is applied for a cosmetic purpose.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1 wherein the solution or gel is applied for a therapeutic purpose.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the scaffold-forming agent is at least one polysaccharide or a derivative thereof.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the scaffold-forming agent is sodium alginate.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the shaped article has a volume of 0.1 cm^3 to 6 cm^3 and exhibits the geometrical shape of a sphere.

Claims 7-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the shaped article is applied by the human directly to said human's own skin and/or hair.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the shaped article is moistened with water or with an aqueous solution of one or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances, forming a gel, and is applied onto the skin or onto the hair.

Claims 11-14 (canceled)